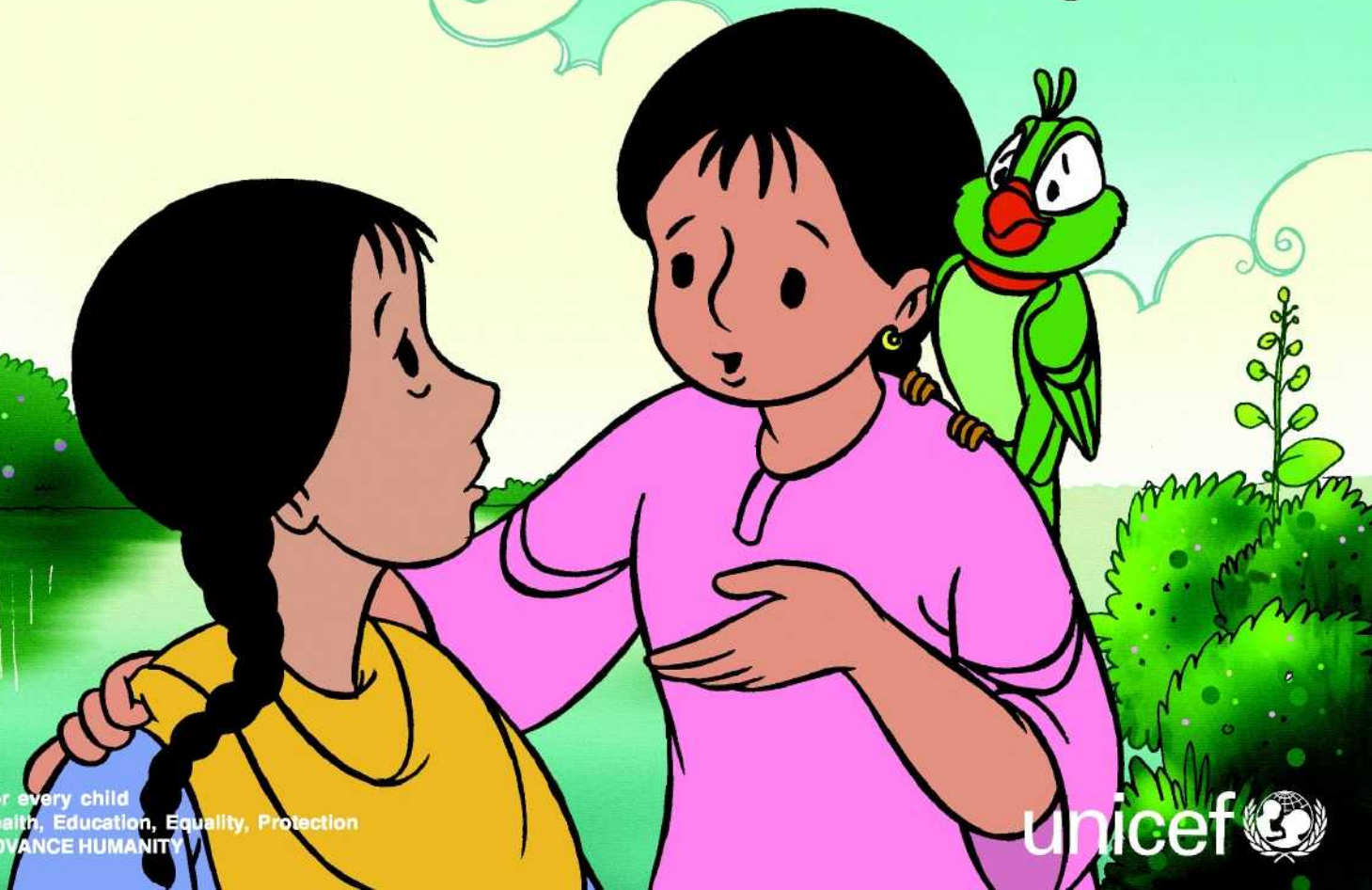


School First, Marriage Later



Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

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It was a beautiful morning. Meena and Grandma were on their way home...



While passing by the river they saw a girl sitting on the bank and crying.



Reba was 15 years old and studied in school. She was very upset because her father was discussing her marriage.

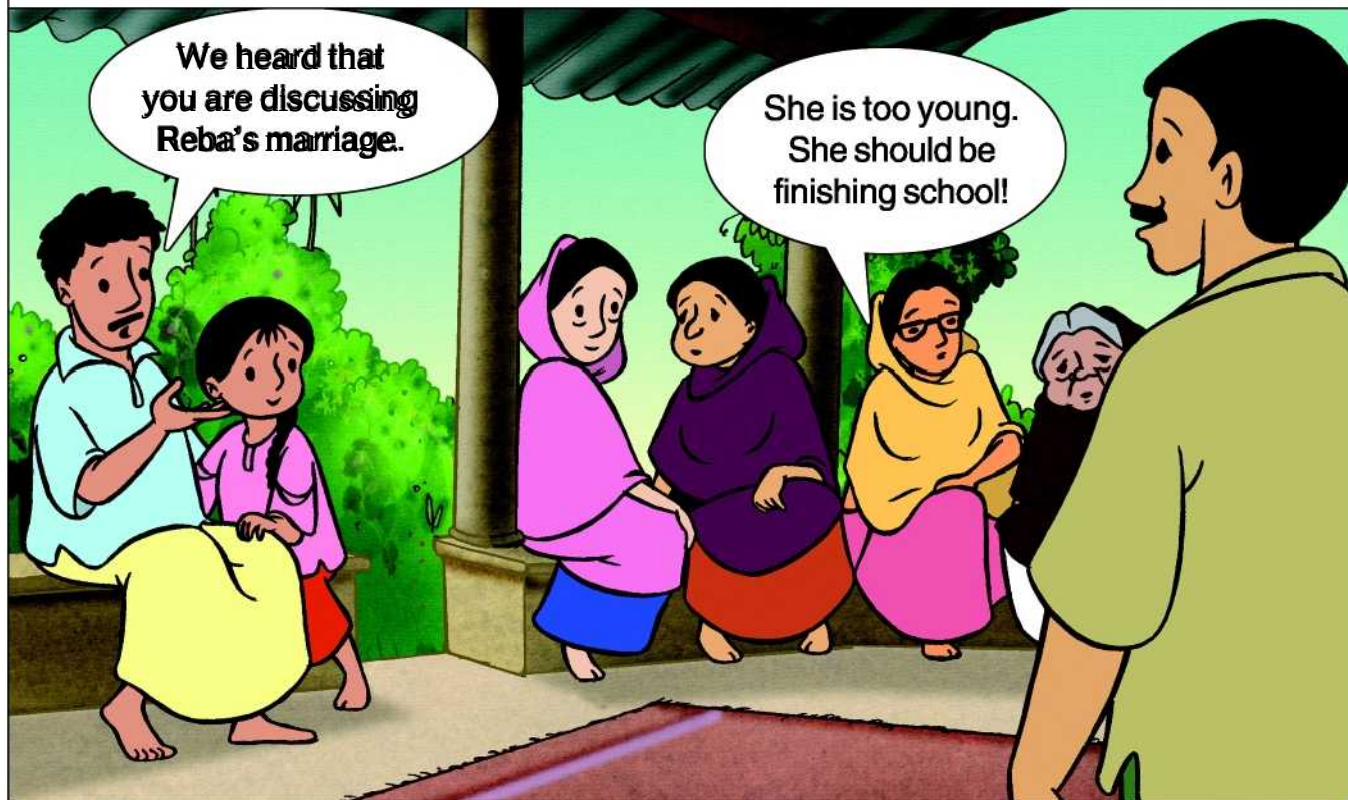


Meena was sad when she heard this. She knew that it is important to finish school and that girls should not marry before the age of 18.

Grandma offered to help too. She promised to speak to Reba's parents.



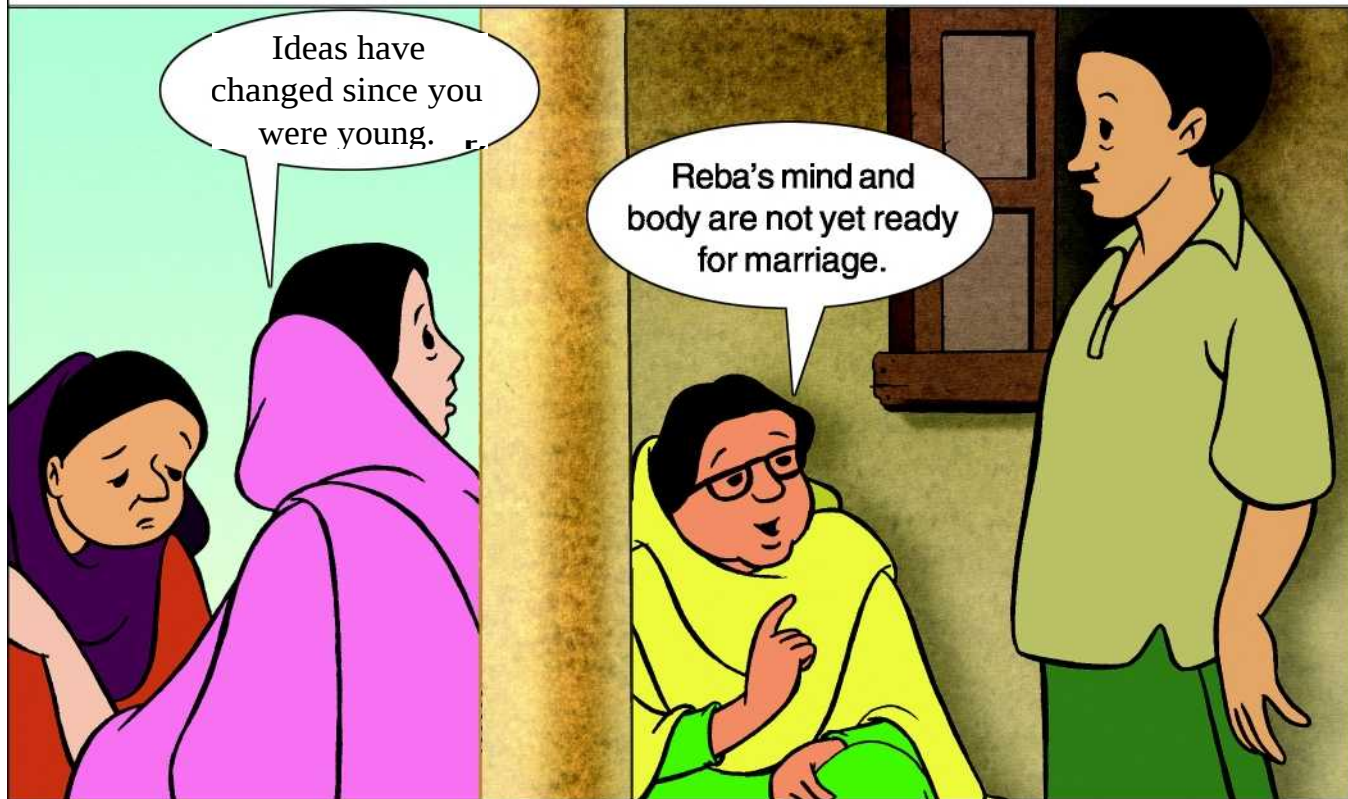
Grandma and Meena kept their word. They talked to Meena's parents, the school teacher and the village health worker. Soon the whole group turned up at Reba's house.



Reba's father was surprised. When he was young, all girls got married early.



Reba's mother looked sad. Early marriage for her had led to an early pregnancy and she had almost died when Reba was born.





Reba's father had not known about the law. He looked at all the people around him and thought carefully about everything they had said. He was very thoughtful...



He looked at his daughter and realised that he was making a decision that would affect the rest of her life. He smiled at Reba and told her that he would call off the marriage.





This is a picture for you to colour



All girls should be in school.

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1. Count Your Chickens
2. Dividing the Mango
3. Will Meena Leave School?
4. Who's Afraid of the Bully?
5. Saving a Life
6. Meena's Three Wishes
7. Say No to Dowry
8. Too Young to Marry
9. Take Care of Girls
10. I Love School
11. It's Got to Be a Boy!
12. Meena in the City
13. A Girl's Story
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